



TOP NEWS

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DEAR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF THE STCC



PRESIDENT BRUNO G. ODERMATT

We are living in turbulent and often chaotic times and sometimes when we begin to think the worst is over another disaster – a 'Black Swan' – may hit full force.

On 17 August a bomb exploded at a popular place of worship in Central Bangkok during the evening rush hour, killing 20 and injuring more than 120 people. In a neighbourhood full of five-star hotels and luxury shopping malls, the area around Bangkok's Erawan Shrine is, at any given moment, filled with hundreds of tourists, office workers, worshippers, shoppers, and business people. Just as Bangkok's/Thailand's tourism sector was

beginning to welcome back its usual rate of tourists who once again steadily filled Bangkok's hotel rooms, this unprecedented and single worst attack seen in Bangkok's recent history, dealt another blow to Thailand and its tourism industry. Whilst national police chief Somyot Poompummunag was rightly telling the media that "whoever planted this bomb is cruel and aimed to kill innocent people", many of us received inquiries from friends and business colleagues abroad with regard to Bangkok's safety situation.

As we are saddened, heartbroken and even feel psychologically unsafe after such a terrible event, it reminded me of the English poet Edward Fitzgerald's version of "Salomon's Seal", which describes a sultan requesting of King Salomon a sentence that would always be true in good and bad times. Salomon then responded: "This too shall pass away". Even though it feels disheartening right now as the crime

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STCC CALENDAR

Thursday, 10th Sept 2015:

Swiss Life Presentation:

"Altersvorsorge für Auslandschweizer (in German, 1h before STCC Stamm) at Amari Boulevard Hotel, 17:00 (registrierte Teilnehmer erhalten einen Voucher an den Stamm Eintritt)

Thursday, 10th Sept 2015:

STCC Stamm at Amari Boulevard Hotel, 18:00

Thursday, 15th Sept 2015:

SSB Hoeck at Grottino Restaurant, 18:00

More details for above events please wait for the invitation-mail or get it from www.swissthai.com, click on "events".



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

investigation as to who is responsible for this brutal attack is still ongoing, this too shall pass and the City of Bangkok and its people will emerge stronger and more committed to keeping the spirit of this great city alive.

In another unexpected event, China weakened its currency in three consecutive days - one could also call it currency adjustment or devaluation - and global markets greeted it with alarm. Many investors and financial commentators regarded the latest move by the People's Bank of China (PBOC) as a sign of desperation over the government's fear of subdued economic growth and worsening financial fragility. The intervention of the PBOC created some heavy turmoil in the currency, global equities, fixed income, and commodity markets. It remains to be seen on how it will impact international trade flows. One can argue that the action of the PBOC comes at an inconvenient time since the volume of global trade has been in decline. China's exports have recently fallen and the problem is that other countries, who have also suffered export losses, may now be tempted to follow China's lead. Some pundits raise concerns that China is seeking a currency war, amongst rising tensions between Beijing and other governments over these

recent currency policies. One can hope that these tensions will not prevail.

In lighter news, Thailand's latest cabinet reshuffle should boost the country's economy and improve its government image in the eyes of the foreign community. 8 of the 10 newly appointed cabinet members are civilians with solid business experiences and most have been placed in key economic areas, which is a positive move. In replacing all economic ministers and handing over the leadership of economic affairs to Dr. Somkid Jatusripitak, who is well versed and experienced in economic matters, Prime Minister Prayud Chan-o-cha recognises that there is room for improvement in handling the economy, a key part of the government's policy. One can fairly say that this will bode well for Thailand's economy and its global competitiveness.

Last but not least, I would like to urge you to join us in visiting the Metro Tunnel which runs beneath the Chao Phraya River and is a part of the MRT Blue Line extension project. You will definitely enjoy this excursion and will get a taste of what it means to work in an underground tunnel project. Our member Andre Meier organized this exclusive visit and as there is a limit to the number of participants allowed, so

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MEMBER DETAIL UPDATES

Do you have changes among your delegates or changes to your e-mail, mobile, telephone, or fax numbers?

Please send all updates to secretary@swissthai.com



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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

please register early and be part of this really special event.

Contact the President:

Bruno G. Odermatt

President STCC

president@swissthai.com

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With this in mind I wish you lots of success in your business in this challenging and eventful year.

With the best wishes

*Bruno G. Odermatt
President*

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CRACKING DOWN ON CORRUPTION IN THAILAND

#CORR'PT

On 9 July 2015, the Thai government issued Amendment No.3 to the Anti-Corruption Act BE 2542 (1999) (Amendment No.3) to comply with international standards for the prevention and suppression of corruption. Thailand had previously also ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption (2003) on 1 March 2011. Even though the legal framework for combating corruption has been in place since the late 1990's, enforcement of anti-corruption laws in Thailand has been inconsistent since their inception.

Clear evidence of ongoing corrupt practices in Thailand has been well documented under the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). The CPI is conducted by Transparency International, a non-governmental organization that monitors and publicizes corporate and political corruption in the international development sector. The results of the latest index show Thailand has risen 17 places from 102nd in 2012 to 85th in 2014. According to the index, within the ASEAN region, Thailand remains as the 3rd least corrupt nation,

out doing Indonesia, Vietnam, the Lao PDR, Cambodia and Myanmar among others. A report published by the Global Financial Integrity Group at the close of 2014 entitled "Illicit Flows from Developing Countries" revealed that over USD35 billion (THB 1.1 trillion) had been drained from Thailand through money-laundering, tax evasion, crime and false trade documentation practices.

Despite the improvements seen under the CPI, corruption is still a prevalent practice in Thailand.



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Corrupt practices can largely be explained by the patronage system, which is dominant in Thai social culture. Under this system, it is common for those in positions of authority to extend "favors" to their associates or relatives. These "favors" result in corrupt practices becoming ingrained at all levels of political, bureaucratic and corporate hierarchies, both domestic and international.

To provide an example of a recent well-documented corruption case, we refer to the dismissal of a high ranking public servant who has allegedly assisted individuals to falsely claim refunds of value-added tax in an amount excess of THB 3.2 billion. These sorts of corrupt practices have remained prevalent in Thailand despite the enactment of several anti-corruption related legislative instruments, including: the Civil Service Act of 1992, the Act on Criminal Procedures for Persons Holding Political Positions BE

2542 (1999), the Management of Partnership Stakes and Shares of Ministers Act BE 2543 (2000) and the Act Governing Liability for Wrongful Acts of Competent Officers BE 2539 (1996).

There is no universal definition of the term "corruption" as corrupt practices span a wide range of illicit or illegal activities. However, almost all definitions share the common theme of abuse of public power and abuse of a public position for personal benefit. A clear trend has been that anti-corruption policies generally focus on public sector corruption rather than that in the private sector. From 1932, the Thai Criminal Code criminalized active and passive bribery, attempted bribery and corruption, extortion, abuse of public office for private gain, as well as for serving as an intermediary between two parties exchanging bribes and services. Under the Criminal Code, a bribe is interpreted as the property or benefit given, or offered to




a person in power, especially a public official, in order to induce him to do, not to do or delay a particular action. However, a gift offered to a public officer is not considered a bribe if it is given in certain circumstances and is valued under a certain amount (THB 3,000).


The Criminal Code applied to instances of bribery of persons holding political office such as members of the parliament, provincial assembly or municipal assembly, officials in public administration and the court, and employees of the government which include those working for government agencies, state enterprises, or other state agencies. It is important to note that


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in the past, anti-corruption regulations did not cover the bribery of foreign officials or activities in the private sector.

Prior to the amendment, punitive penalties for corruption ranged from five years to life imprisonment and/or a THB 2,000 – 40,000 fine, depending on the degree of seriousness of the act committed. Following the Coup d'Etat on 22 May 2014, the National Council for Peace and Order has committed to reform the country in various areas which

include the implementation of new anti-corruption measures. Prior to Amendment No. 3, the death penalty for corruption related crimes was limited to Thai officials convicted of taking bribes. One of the most significant reforms of Amendment No. 3 is that the penalty is now extended to also cover non-Thai nationals working for foreign governments and international organizations.

Some terms have been added in order to adequately encompass

foreigners in the Act. Firstly, a "State official in a foreign country" effectively covers persons performing any function within a foreign administration, whether it be legislative, administrative or judicial. Secondly, an "Agent of international Organization" includes persons performing in any function of or on behalf of the international organization.

Thailand's National Legislative Assembly (NLA) exercised its broad powers under Section 44 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand (interim) BE 2557 (2014) to tighten anti-corruption measures through an aggressive amendment of the existing Anti-corruption Act BE 2542 (1999). Significant changes to the old Anti-Corruption Act BE 2542 (1999) are seen in Article 13 of Amendment No. 3, which increases penalties for state officials who commit offences stipulated under Articles

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123/2 to 123/8. The penalties for a state official convicted of corruption range from THB 100,000 to 400,000 fines, 5 to 20 years or life imprisonment, through to capital punishment, depending on the severity of the offence. In contrast, only monetary fines will apply to corporations that participate in corrupt practices. The fact that the recipient of a bribe may be handed a heavier sentence in terms of imprisonment and fines under the Criminal Code reflects the idea that Thai law considers the recipient to be the more serious offender than the person offering the bribe. Should it be established that the act of the recipient amounts to a demand or coercion, the death sentence could apply under the Criminal Code. Article 11 of Amendment No. 3 changes the procedure relating to the statute of limitations and penalties under 74/1.

Also, it now stipulates that if a defendant escapes abroad while being prosecuted or on trial, the period that he or she escapes is

not counted as part of the statute of limitations. If a defendant escapes after a court issues a final verdict the article 98 of the Criminal Code would not be enforced.

The National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) is also granted a new power to pursue corruption cases under Amendment No. 3. The NACC's duty is to carry out inspections and investigations of cases of "unusual wealth". However, historically investigations have proceeded at a very slow pace and only a handful of officials have been punished. On its face, it would seem that Amendment No. 3 may not increase enforcement of anti-corruption laws in Thailand, however, it is likely to pave the way for stricter enforcement practices to be implemented in the near future.

Given recent changes, the landscape of systemic corruption is slowly altering and it is important for both medium and

large companies to ensure that they are aware of the legal limits when providing facilitation fees. Amendment No. 3 ensures international standards and its enforcements will provide more transparency in relations between foreign investors and the Thai administration. The enactment of Amendment No. 3 will ensure that fair practices are applied across the board when dealing with public officials with regard to access to information, conflicts of interest, public procurements, and the protection of whistleblowers.

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MEMBER INTERVIEW

STEFAN BUECHLER

Interview with Stefan Buechler, regional manager of Buchi Switzerland, a worldwide leader in laboratory instruments.

Stefan, thank you very much for your time to conduct today's interview. You are an seasoned manager with a full pack of Asia experience. How did your Asia trip start?

It all started in 1989 when I came to Thailand to develop the instrumentation business of Diethelm Thailand (Today DKSH). Back then, even large companies like Wild Heerbrug (Today Leica) or Mettler (Today Mettler-Toledo) needed local partners to start in the complicated markets of Southeast Asia.

How did you build the instrument business at Diethelm and what kind of sales numbers did you achieve?

Within Diethelm I could develop this business freely, in a very entrepreneurial environment. For example I had the freedom to choose supplier companies and direct the business without much administrative hurdles. Focusing on a few good companies from Europe and the US was the key of our success. It was win-win for Diethelm and the principals. We had about



ten well known suppliers with a combined business volume of approx. 150-200 Mio Baht.

Now you are the regional manager of BUCHI Labortechnik AG, Switzerland. Obviously there were changes from the Diethelm times?

Yes indeed it was a rocky ride, the last 25 years. Mettler (Greifensee, Switzerland, scales, weighing systems) was one of the really strong suppliers with superb products. From pharmaceutical industry to jewelry everybody needed to accurately measure weight. Weight is money! Mettler had, and still has, fantastic products. It is very common, once a company starts

to have substantial business, to leave the local distributor and start its own operation. From 1994 onwards I was heavily involved with the Mettler start-up in Thailand. Indeed the Mettler project was so successful that they ask me to be involved in other Asian countries and Europe. In 1998, for private reasons, I decided to go back to Europe.

So you had a break from Thailand, sometimes helpful to appreciate it again later ?!

Sure, once you experienced Thailand it is hard to forget. The next few years in Europe were very interesting though. Especially nice memories I have of a



MEMBER INTERVIEW

one year stint in Vienna, Austria working for Mettler-Toledo. With all the different kind of business experiences, I found it easy to network also with other companies. So I was a bit of a gipsy with times in Frauenfeld (SIA Abrasives), Wangs (Straub). In 2004 and 2009 I was working for the EDA as part of the Kosovo force (KFOR) to improve logistics and flow of goods from Greek ports. I was stationed in Thessaloniki and Prizren, for 12 months each. In 2011, BUCHI Labortechnik AG approached me as they needed a regional Manager in Thailand. Although I was first diverted to Japan, coming back in 2013 to Bangkok felt a bit like coming home again. Now I consider Thailand my home, though my job is giving me the privilege to travel a great deal within Asia.

Stefan Buechler, the private person, upbringing?

I grew up in Kanton Appenzell, in a village called Speicher, nice-

ly located between the Alpstein and St. Gallen and near Lake Constance. Very traditional typical Swiss education, with a mechanical apprenticeship (Feinmechaniker) at Wild company in Heerbrugg. Military career to the rank of major and higher technical college (HTL) at the evening college in St.Gallen. I was married and our two boys were born in Bangkok. My family still fondly remembers the time in Thailand. In my free time I like to do sports like swimming, hiking, biking. A special hobby is paragliding. It feels good, flying high and seeing all the problems and troubles becoming smaller as the glider goes higher.

The last and our traditional question: What would you change in Thailand if you were in power?

What shall I say, I am a guest in this beautiful country. I wish, however, that Thailand can return to political stability for

the benefit of the entire Thai society, soon. Not much can be changed without political consent. Thailand used to be the number one destination for investors in emerging markets but is not as attractive any more due to the uncertainty in the political situation. Today Vietnam has become a real alternative option for investors. The Asian Economic Community (AEC) may help to restore credibility in the region. Removed trade barriers may be positive for Thailand.

Stefan, Thank You very much for your time and good luck to all your future ventures.

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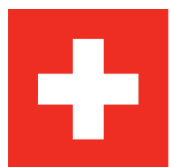
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Due to the international success of the company, international structures were needed and more and more own affiliates have been founded in the major markets. In the implementation phase of this strategy, BUCHI Thailand has been built in 2004. As a pure sales and service organisation BUCHI Thailand immediately started to take over the business. The fact that BUCHI people were now active to support and work with BUCHI customers increased the quality and the level of trust of the customers heavily. This did not just happen for the Thai market, BUCHI Thailand also took over the function as the South East Asian competence centre for the headquarters in Switzerland.

In our days, BUCH Thailand has five sales reps, four service engineers, three product specialists,



BUCHI Service technician



BUCHI Thailand staff

one application specialist and three back office personal and is located in Sin Sathorn Tower in the Klongsan area. With this team, the company is able to

support our demanding customers in the private as well as the government sector as good as possible.



RIS SWISS SECTION DEUTSCHSPRACHIGE SCHULE BANGKOK

OPEN HOUSE INFO SESSION

We welcome everyone to visit our school for an exciting Open House Info Session on Saturday, 26 September 2015 between 1.00 pm and 3.00 pm on our campus! Come along if you want to experience our unique Swiss

and German learning experience first-Hand. You will have the chance to get information about our Swiss approach to education during presentations and Q&A, participate in guided tours through our great campus in the

green and get together with current students and parents who will share their experience and passion for learning with you. Please inform us about your attendance: events@ris-swiss-section.org or 095 506 3670.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Mr. Simon Dörig, Principal

Simon Dörig (born in 1979) attained his high school diploma at the Gymnasium St. Antonius in Appenzell and subsequently studied Economics at the University of St. Gallen (HSG). After receiving the Master of Arts HSG he was active in teaching, research and counseling at the Swiss Institute for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Entrepreneurship and Family Business. Due to his foundation of an international school, he got in touch with a group of private schools for which he worked for seven years. He was in charge of five international schools in Switzerland and Germany and a member of the management board. Simon Dörig taught Economics and Law for five years at a vocational school at upper secondary level (Berufsmaturitätsschule). He received the teaching diploma for Matura

schools from the Teacher Training College Thurgau (Pädagogische Hochschule Thurgau) after successfully completing a Master degree of Advanced Studies in Secondary and Higher Education. In February 2015 he was appointed Principal of RIS Swiss Section-Deutschsprachige Schule Bangkok as of 1 August 2015.



Mr. Jens Eggert, Vice Principal, Head of Secondary

Jens Eggert (born in 1959) studied German Languages and Literature and Protestant Theology in Kiel and Paderborn. Upon completing his teacher training course and additional qualification to become a secondary school teacher for





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German and History, he taught at various schools including a Waldorf boarding school in Switzerland for six years. Subsequently he further developed the full-time concept at a Gymnasium in Hamburg. In 2006 he took over as Head of German

Secondary School at the German-Swiss School Hong Kong. The main focus of his work there was, among many other areas, the implementation of working methods to strengthen self-dependent and self-reliant learning. After his return to Hamburg

in 2012 he was, in his function as media advisor, strongly involved with new media in addition to his teaching load. Jens Eggert joined RIS Swiss Section-Deutschsprachige Schule Bangkok at the start of the academic year 2015/2016.

CEREMONY MARKING THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

On Monday, the 10th of August 2015, at 9.30 am, RIS Swiss Section - Deutschsprachige Schule Bangkok arranged a ceremony marking the beginning of the new school year.

The Swiss Ambassador ad interim to Thailand (Chargé d'affaires), H.E. Mr. Viktor Vavricka, and the Chargé d'affaires of the German Embassy, H. E. Dr. Peer Gebauer, were in attendance

and greeted the students and wished them a successful new school year. They also assured their cooperation and support to provide any assistance to the new school management team. From our partner school RIS, Father Apisit and Father Yuthana were present.

Students, teachers, administrative staff, parents and other guests were greeted with

welcoming words from the new Principal Simon Dörig, who gave a special welcome to the new teachers.

The highlight of the ceremony was the introduction of new students by Jens Eggert, the new Head of Secondary and the Head of Primary, Johanna Vaenskae. Following tradition for the first day of school, Uraiwan Sethakul, Head of Administration, pre-



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sented the school staff to the guests. The Student Council SMV also welcomed the school community and encouraged the students to support their tasks. Two

piano performances by students of Grade 7, Jaye Sermkaew Ruh and Dominique Voigt, enlivened the ceremony.

After the ceremony, the students returned to their lessons and the parents and guests went to the entrance area where drinks and snacks were being served.



Important events in the second semester of the school year:

- 26.09.2015 Open House Info Session (13:00 – 15:00)
- 14.10.2015 Annual General Meeting of SEA
- 11.11.2015 Open House Day (7.30 – 14.40 Uhr)
- 13.11.2015 Lantern Parade (KG - Grade 3 - evening)
- 25.11.2015 Loy Krathong - Day
- 08.12.2015 St. Nicolas`visit
- 10.12.2015 Sports Day (7:30 – 12:00)
- 16.12.2015 Christmas Party (from 13:00)

Please visit our website – www.ris-swiss-section.org – and get more information about our upcoming events.

RIS SWISS SECTION DEUTCHSPRACHIGE SCHULE BANGKOK



Open House Info Session

Saturday, 26 September 2015



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um 11 Uhr im Begegnungszentrum Pattaya
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พบด้วยรหัสบาร์โค้ด ปิดฝาด้วย SMART CAP ใ้ทุกครั้งที่เปลี่ยนเกลลอน
ไม่จำเป็นต้องใช้มือหรือปากกดเพื่อเปิดน้ำจากเกลลอนทุกเกลลอน



ดึงฝาเกลลอนออก



กดฝาเกลลอนกลับ



ห้ามใช้มือหรือปากกด



ขนาด 18.9 ลิตร